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LETTER DATED 6 JANUARY 1994 FROM THE REPRESENTATIVES OF PORTUGAL,
THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION AND THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE
UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

Upon instructions from our Governments, we have the honour to send to you the English and Portuguese texts of the Joint Statement made by the Observers of Portugal, the Russian Federation and the United States of America, to the Angolan Peace Process, on 27 December 1993, and to request that this be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) José Caetano COSTA PEREIRA
Minister Plenipotentiary
Chargé d'affaires a.i. of
Portugal to the United Nations

(Signed) Yuliy M. VORONTSOV
Ambassador
Permanent Representative of
the Russian Federation to
the United Nations

(Signed) Edward S. WALKER
Ambassador
Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the
United States of America to
the United Nations

Annex

Joint statement by the observer countries to the Angola
peace process (Portugal, the Russian Federation and the
United States of America)

For six weeks, since 15 November, delegations of the Government of the Republic of Angola and of UNITA have been negotiating in Lusaka, Zambia, under the auspices of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General of the United Nations for Angola along with the participation of our representatives to the Angola peace process. Significant progress has been achieved and it is our consensus view that the remaining issues can be successfully resolved.

At this point, among other things because of the UNITA delegation's request, a brief pause in the negotiations in Lusaka until 5 January has been agreed upon. This will allow both delegations to return to Angola for consultations with their political leadership.

However, while the negotiations in Lusaka have progressed, the military situation in Angola has remained of great concern. Offensive military actions are continuing in several regions which place the Peace Process in peril and put vital humanitarian aid programmes in serious jeopardy, thereby increasing the suffering and death of thousands of Angolans. Under these circumstances there is more urgency than ever for both delegations to accelerate their efforts to reach an acceptable peace agreement in Lusaka.

It is in this spirit that our Governments support the Special Representative of the Secretary-General in agreeing to this short pause in these talks. We urge the Government and UNITA delegations to inform directly their leadership about the negative impact on the hopes for success in Lusaka of continuing military offensives.

We also stand solidly with the Special Representative and the United Nations Security Council in their demand that the Government of the Republic of Angola and UNITA exercise maximum restraint and stop immediately all military actions in order to prevent further suffering on the part of the civilian population of Angola and damage to Angola's economy. We call on them to return rapidly to Lusaka prepared to agree quickly on the issues remaining to achieve a peaceful settlement.

Let this Christmas season be the true beginning of the peace and national reconciliation that all Angolans desire.

Lisbon, 27 December 1993
